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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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Booking for LPG cylinder refills proving to be quite a task and induction cookers have long flown off the shelves — commercial establishments have been suffering, but households too not spared agony of wartime crunch

DISQUIET AT DINNER

Customers run into technical glitches, long queues

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Many Bengalureans who thought that the ripples of the war in West Asia were limited to commercial LPG cylinders are now reporting that trouble has reached their kitchens too. Several citizens, who have been trying to get refills through mobile applications for their gas cylinders, found out that there seems to be a hold-up in the process. Authorities have now clarified that if a cylinder user had their last refill less than 25 days ago, they will not be get a refill.

Meanwhile, many citizens also reported repeated technical glitches while attempting to book cylinders on the App, with the app displaying sync errors and service unavailability messages.

"I am trying to use the Indane app, but it says 'sync error' all the time," said Girish L, a citizen. Jayashree, a homemaker, said the app repeatedly displayed messages indicating a technical problem. "It keeps saying there is a technical issue and that the service is

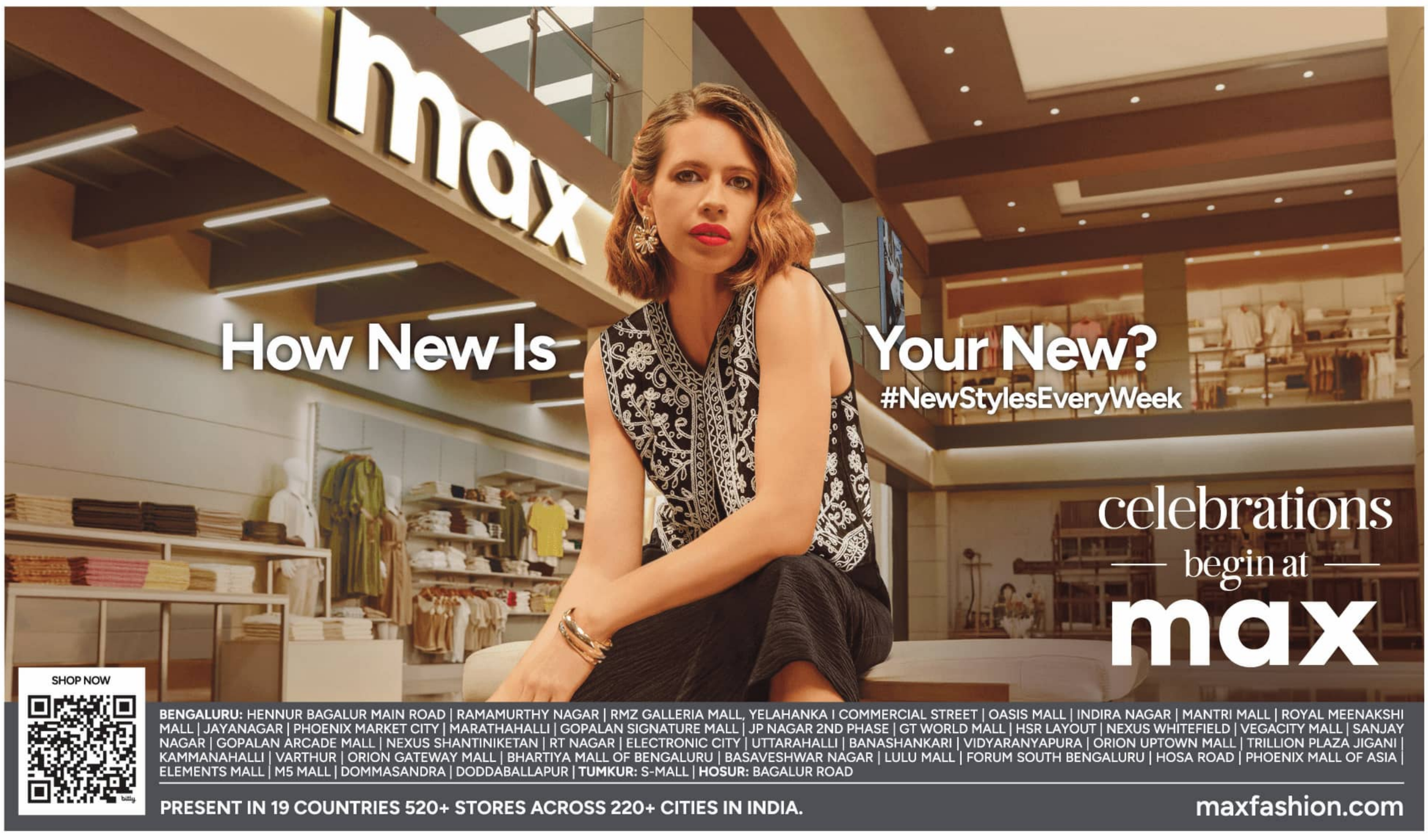
CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 »

PAGE 13: FOOD CHAIN COLLAPSE

DIRTY DEED

Untreated sewage and factory discharge from Bengaluru choking Vrishabhavathi

PAGE 5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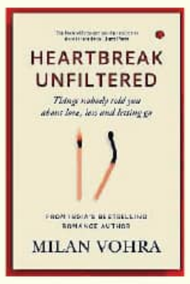
THINGS TO DO

01 Fusion music

Indofuzon presents Baithak 2.0, an evening that blends contemporary fusion with classical and folk influences, bringing together powerful vocals and rich instrumentation for an immersive live music experience. **Where: Indian Craft Brewery (ICB), Nagawara; When: March 21, 8 pm**

02 Matters of the heart

Atta Galatta is hosting a discussion on 'Heartbreak Unfiltered: Things Nobody Told You About Love, Loss and Letting Go' by Milan Vohra, which brings together 20 real stories from across the world that explore the many faces of heartbreak. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 14, 6 pm**



03 Immersive beats

CAGED returns to Indiranagar SOCIAL, bringing a high-energy night of electronic music with Tasha (UK), joined by Chaz and Cygni, for a night built around driving rhythms, immersive sound, and a dance floor designed to keep the energy moving. **Where: Indiranagar SOCIAL; When: March 14, 7 pm**

04 Bookmark this

Atta Galatta is presenting Between the Pages, a beginner-friendly workshop where participants will learn how to crochet a handmade bookmark. All materials will be provided. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: March 14, 4 pm**

05 Soulful songs

SANAM, one of India`s most cherished pop-rock groups, known for fusing old-world charm with a contemporary sound, will be performing live, bringing an unforgettable musical experience. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity; When: Mar 14, 7.30 pm**

Karnataka swats down mosquito menace in 2025

Data reveals drop in mosquito-borne diseases compared to previous years; experts say surveillance, early detection and eliminating stagnant water sources remain crucial

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Karnataka has recorded a significant drop in major vector-borne diseases in 2025 compared to the previous year, reflecting the impact of strengthened surveillance and control measures implemented across the state.

According to the latest health department data, cases of malaria, chikungunya and dengue, the most common mosquito-borne infections, have declined notably in 2025 when compared to the surge reported in 2024.

Chikungunya cases reduced substantially. From 2,954 cases in 2024, the numbers fell to 1,061 in 2025, marking a drop of more than 60 per cent.

Dengue, which witnessed the highest spike last year, has shown the most dramatic fall. The state reported 32,886 dengue cases and 27 deaths in 2024. However, by December 2025, the number of cases dropped sharply to 7,318, with no deaths recorded. The decline represents a reduction of nearly four-fifths of the cases reported the previous year.

Malaria infections too registered a marginal decline. The state recorded 740 malaria cases and three deaths in 2024, while in 2025 the number stood slightly lower at 694 cases, with no deaths reported.

Cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis (AES/JE) also showed a modest decline. While 681 cases and three deaths were reported in 2024, the figures dropped to 633 cases in 2025 with no deaths recorded.

Health officials attribute the overall decline to intensified prevention and control measures across districts

Health officials attribute the overall decline to intensified prevention and control measures across districts. Karnataka continues to implement programmes for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases such as malaria, filaria, dengue, chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis in line with guidelines issued by the National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

The programme is implemented at the district level through District Vector Borne Disease Control Officers, Taluka Health Officers and administrative medical officers at Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres. At the state level, key activities include drug procurement, designing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and training healthcare personnel to strengthen disease surveillance and response.

"Diseases such as dengue and chikungunya are closely linked to environmental conditions and mosquito breeding. Continuous surveillance, early detection, and eliminating stagnant water sources remain the most effective strategies to prevent outbreaks. The current trend shows that coordinated action by health departments and local bodies can significantly reduce the burden of these diseases," said a healthcare professional.

Although the reduction in vector-borne disease cases is a positive development, it should not lead to complacency, added another doctor.

Although reduction in vector-borne disease cases is positive development, it should not lead to complacency as infections can surge quickly when preventive measures are relaxed, says doctor

"Mosquito-borne infections can surge quickly when preventive measures are relaxed," said the doctor.

This makes it essential to maintain sustained vector control efforts, which include regular fogging operations, consistent source reduction activities, and strong public awareness campaigns. Each of these measures play an essential role in ensuring that the gains made this year are maintained in the long term, said the doctor, while adding that preventive measures must be taken well before the onset of the monsoon season to safeguard progress and keep the threat of infections in check.

BESCOM warns against misuse of domestic electricity

BESCOM has issued a strict warning that electricity connections meant for domestic use must not be used for commercial or other purposes. The company noted that some consumers are illegally using L-1 domestic connections for shops, commercial establishments, factories, guesthouses, paying guest accommodations, offices, and similar purposes. Any such misuse, if detected, will lead to immediate disconnection and legal action under the Electricity Act 2003 (Sections 126 and 135) and the Electricity Supply Regulations (Section 42 and sub-sections). BESCOM has advised affected consumers to visit the local sub-division office to apply for a tariff category change and regularise their connection. It also reminded the public that domestic connections cannot be used even during festivals or religious events; temporary commercial connections must be applied for separately to comply with the rules. **— BMB**

441 new public toilets planned across city

The Greater Bengaluru Authority will construct 441 new public toilets in addition to the existing 388, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar announced. Responding to a question in the assembly, he said 65 of the current toilets are maintained by retired civic workers, while others are managed by special volunteers. Under the Shubhra Bengaluru project, 60 toilets will be built, and 90 more under the Swachh Bharat Mission with Rs 13.5 crore provided by the central government. An additional 100 toilets will come up under the Brand Bengaluru initiative, completing the total of 441 new facilities, with further construction possible at identified locations based on local needs. **— BMB**

KSCA briefs committee of security enhancements at M Chinnaswamy Stadium

The Karnataka State Cricket Association officials on Friday met the state government constituted Expert Committee, giving a detailed presentation of the security enhancement works being carried out at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium ahead of the IPL.

The state government has recently greenlighted the conduct of IPL matches at the venue after months of uncertainty owing to the stampede on June 4, 2025.

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru will take on former champions Sunrisers Hyderabad here in the inaugural match of the IPL 2026 on March 28.

"We wish to inform you that the Expert Committee constituted by the Government of Karnataka held a meeting today with officials of the KSCA and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at the Karnataka State Cricket Association," said Vinay Mruthyunjaya, the official KSCA spokesperson.

Apart from the season's inaugural match, the RCB Unbox function and the opening ceremony are also scheduled to be held here."During the meeting, KSCA made a detailed presentation on the infrastructural upgrades/arrangements and safety measures undertaken at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, in line with the recommendations of the Expert Committee that are to be implemented under Phase-I of the compliance framework," he added. The RCB will play five home matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium this season, while the remaining two will be staged at Raipur. "Representatives of RCB and their associated operational agencies also presented their preparedness and operational plans for the smooth and orderly conduct of the upcoming IPL matches. "Discussions were constructive and positive, and stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that matches can be conducted in a safe, well-regulated, and seamless manner," added Mruthyunjaya. **— PTI**

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Grand opening done, park care completely forgotten

Park named after Dr H Narasimhaiah lies neglected as missing facilities, broken gym equipment and locked gates raise concerns among residents

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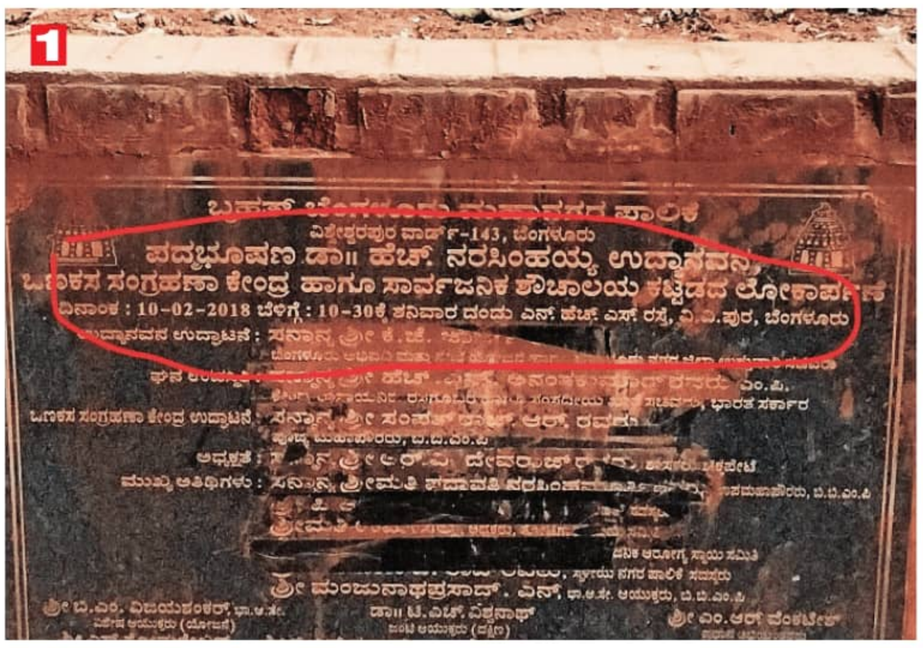
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The he park situated near National College Metro Station is named after Dr H Narasimhaiah, a renowned physicist, educator and freedom fighter. However, the condition of the park, its open-air gym equipment and the name board present a different picture. If the state of the park is anything to go by, Dr H Narasimhaiah might be turning in his grave.

The name board lists several political leaders present during the inauguration, including then Bengaluru Development Minister KJ George, then Mayor Sampath Raj and then MLA RV Devaraj. The board states that KJ George inaugurated the park, while Sampath Raj inaugurated the dry waste collection centre on February 20, 2018.

The board also states that public toilets were inaugurated. However, there is no sign of the dry waste collection centre or public toilets inside the park. Residents say the park needs immediate attention from authorities. Visitors add that the condition of the park is poor, with nearly 20 garbage bins placed at different locations inside.

"The park was developed during the tenure of MLA RV Devaraj. Later, Devaraj got defeated and Uday B Garudachar got elected to the State Assembly from Chickpet constituency. No one is bothered about the



amount spent for the development of the park and the condition of open-air gym equipment. With no one to clean the park, not many people visit this park", said Shivaraj P, a resident.

Residents say several facilities inside the park have not been maintained properly. Many pieces of equipment at the open-air gym are broken or damaged. "One can imagine the apathy of the authorities who have no time or resources to replace some of the broken garbage bins. The park, which remained closed most of the time, has over 20 garbage bins. It is nothing but wasting tax-payers' money", said Lalitha S, a homemaker.

(1) Name board of Dr H Narasimhaiah Park
(2) The condition of the equipment at the open air gym
(3) Condition of a platform
(4) Broken garbage bins

A resident, on the condition of anonymity, wants to know where the so-called dry waste collection centre and public toilets are situated in the park. "It seems the board was put up in a hurry and the elected representatives wanted to complete the formalities before the model code of conduct came into force on Assembly elections that were held in May 2018. I hope the Bengaluru West City Corporation will investigate the matter and fix the problems by providing basic amenities and replacing the broken and rusted equipment at the open-air gym", the resident said.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Central City Corporation (Horticulture) Superintendent Hanumntha Naik said he would visit the park soon. "I will take up the development of the park", he said.

Don't sit, don't play: Park rules kill the fun

Citizens question restrictive rules across Bengaluru parks, arguing bans on sitting on grass and casual activities undermine purpose of shared public spaces

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Residents in Bengaluru are raising concerns over what they describe as overly restrictive rules in parks managed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), saying regulations such as bans on sitting on the grass are limiting how people can use these public spaces.

Several parks across the city display signboards listing prohibitions, including no sitting on lawns, no playing games and no eating food. Some parks also restrict cycling or certain forms of exercise. While intended to protect greenery and maintain order, park-goers say these rules make spaces feel excessively regulated and less welcoming.

Public parks remain among few freely accessible recreational spaces in city neighbourhoods where residents lack private gardens or open grounds. For many, parks offer places to unwind, socialise and spend time outdoors. However, residents say strict enforcement of rules discourages people from using parks in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

"People visit parks to relax and connect with nature, not to feel like they are constantly being monitored. If visitors are not allowed to sit on the grass or engage in simple activities like playing casually with friends or family, the park begins to function more like a corridor for walking rather than a shared community space," said an urban planning researcher based in Bengaluru.

Residents say park security personnel often enforce these rules strictly, asking visitors to get off

lawns or discouraging activities such as informal games, picnics or even sitting together in groups. Some citizens argue that these restrictions reduce parks to spaces where visitors can only walk along designated paths.

Urban experts say this approach to park management reflects an older philosophy that prioritises maintaining landscaped spaces over encouraging active public use

Urban experts say this approach to park management reflects an older philosophy that prioritises maintaining landscaped spaces over encouraging active public use. "The challenge is finding a balance. Protecting plants and lawns is necessary, but if regulations become too rigid, the park stops serving the public in a meaningful way," said a civic policy analyst.

Community groups have suggested that instead of imposing blanket bans, authorities could designate specific zones for activities such as sitting on lawns, small gatherings or children's play.

"Parks should be lively spaces where people feel welcome to spend time. If every activity is restricted, space loses its purpose. The goal should be to make parks both protected and people-friendly," said a member of a neighbourhood welfare association.

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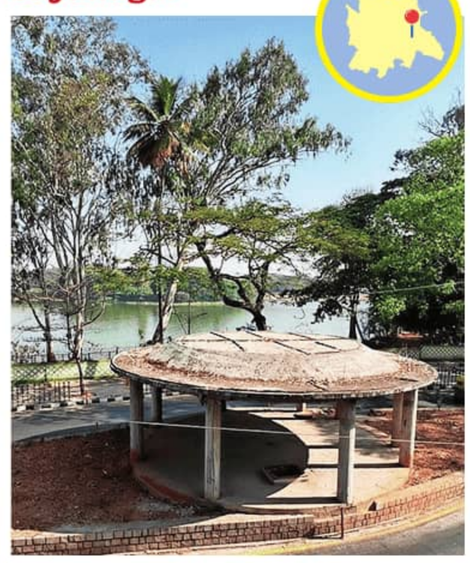
Toxic smoke

Narayanapura

Garbage burning on KJU Sports Arena Road in Narayanapura is releasing toxic gases, posing health risks to residents in the area.

Stalled work

Jayanagar



Construction work on Kankanpalya Road in Jayanagar 2nd Block has remained incomplete for four years.

Unsafe footpath

D'souza Road

A broken footpath outside a children's play school on D'Souza Road poses a danger to pedestrians.

PMREPORT
In which we diagnose our own malaise

Photographs of a park near National College Metro Station were mistakenly used in Thursday's story on Bellandur and Varthur Lake restoration story. The error is regretted

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Neighbour-hood not in the spirit: Yelahanka locality erupts in protest as community resists planned pub near homes, citing safety fears for students

River runs black near factory belt

Decade-long probe exposes worsening contamination across Vrishabhavathi, as untreated sewage and factory discharge choke key downstream stretches

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A decade-long investigative analysis of the Vrishabhavathi by a citizen platform shows that pollution levels in the river are worsening due to sewage and industrial dumping round the clock.

The field monitoring conducted between 2016 and 2025 by Mapping Malnad, a platform that works for the protection of Western Ghats ecology, shows extreme pollution of the river at three locations – Kumbalgodu, Shyanumangala and Byramangala.

The report says these stretches have heavily industrialised corridors, leading to the inflow of industrial effluents, apart from the entry of sewage and solid waste from Bengaluru. Industrial clusters at Kumbalgodu and Bidadi contribute significant toxic loads, further compounding the river's pollution, the analysis has found.

The river cuts through the Kumbalgodu industrial area on the outskirts of west Bengaluru. Site inspections over a period of time have revealed the continuous discharge of opaque, chemical-laden black effluent from industrial units directly into the river.

"Over the years, the volume and intensity of this flow have visibly increased. This discharge is not incidental or seasonal; its round-the-clock character indicates either the absence of functioning effluent treatment at source, the active bypassing of treatment systems, or both each constituting a violation under the Water Act," the report noted.

Moreover, it was observed that industrial solid waste was routinely dumped directly into the river and openly burnt along the riverbanks, releasing toxic chemicals such as dioxins and furans.

Toxic discharge flows into Vrishabhavathi along industrial belt

Survey documents chemical outflow, smouldering refuse piles, polluted reservoir zones threatening villages, wildlife habitats, public health downstream

The report further highlights solid waste accumulated in Shyanumangala village in Ramanagara, where the Vrishabhavathi widens into the Byramangala reservoir. Field inspections of the area have underlined that massive amounts of solid waste accumulate near the Shyanumangala bridge, which is frequently set on fire. Moreover, the volume of waste from Bengaluru reaching this stretch increases during heavy rainfall.

As the river overflows the bridge, waste is deposited across the roadway, blocking traffic and triggering a severe solid-waste crisis in the village. The deposited waste is then pushed back into the river and openly burnt along the riverbanks.

According to the analysis, two bridges near the Byramangala Dam are routinely used as dumping points for industrial solid and liquid waste from the Bidadi industrial area, which abuts the river, and the nearby Harohalli industrial area.

As per the report, water quality analysis by the state pollution control board does not highlight the high pollution levels in the river due to its substandard monitoring system. Thus, the biochemical oxygen demand, a parameter that indicates organic pollution in a water body, presented by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board is not the full measure. According to Nirmala Gowda, founder of Mapping Malnad, the KSPCB's monitoring methodology has significant limitations. Samples are collected once a month, at the most accessible point on the river, at whatever time of day.

"This is a 'grab sample', capturing only a single moment in a river that receives continuous industrial and sewage discharge. It misses nightly industrial releases, making the KSPCB's BOD value appear significantly understated," said Gowda.

Loot worth 15L recovered

Police recovered 95 grams of gold ornaments, 88 grams of silver items, a two-wheeler, a mobile phone and 2,000 in cash, worth about 15 lakh, after cracking a burglary reported in HSR Layout on February 11. The complainant had locked his house on February 10 to go to work but returned to find it broken into and 30 grams of gold missing. Based on leads, police arrested two suspects in Udayagiri, Mysuru, on February 21. During interrogation, the accused confessed and revealed they had pledged stolen gold at finance firms and given some ornaments to acquaintances. Police later recovered the valuables. The accused are linked to five theft cases in HSR Layout and Banaswadi and are now in judicial custody. **–BMB**

Cruel ritual exposed

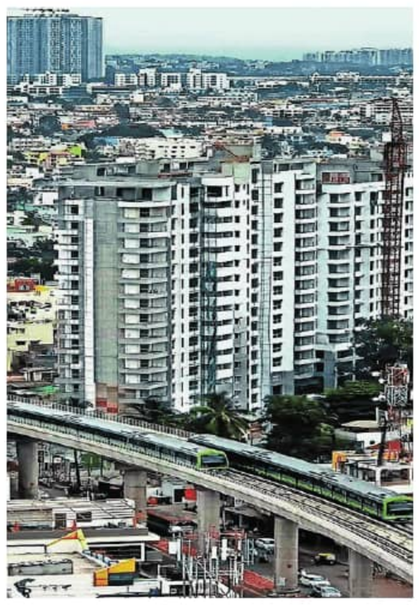
An FIR was lodged at Agrahara Police Station on Friday, over alleged illegal animal sacrifice during the Mutten Bali ritual linked to Chaitra month temple fairs. Around 17 locations, including Ramsagar, Eelilige, Nagamangala, Hosur and Shantipura, reportedly conducted animal sacrifices. Activists alleged animals were killed brutally in public spaces and claimed police failed to act despite being alerted. The complaint seeks action under the Karnataka Prevention of Animal Sacrifices Act, 1959, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and relevant provisions of the BNS, 2023. **–BMB**

Property row: Man beats up mom

A property dispute between family members turned violent after a 53-year-old son allegedly assaulted his elderly mother (75) at their residence in Jayanagar 9th Block on Thursday morning.

Police said the dispute is linked to undivided family property following their father's death. During an argument over repair work while a civil case is pending, the accused allegedly struck his mother with a walking stick, injuring her. Tilak Nagar Police have registered a case. **–BMB**

Kanakapura Road emerges as premium plot hotspot



Demand for premium residential plots is steadily rising along Kanakapura Road, with the area emerging as a promising real estate hub. Property investment in this stretch, known for its cosmopolitan character and expanding infrastructure, is increasingly being viewed as a prestige choice by buyers across Bengaluru.

"The inclusion of the Kanakapura belt in the proposed Greater Bengaluru development plan has further boosted demand for premium residential plots. Several ongoing infrastructure projects and improving civic facilities have made the locality attractive for homebuyers and investors seeking well-connected residential sites with modern amenities," said Ravi Gowda, a realtor.

Industry observers note that Kanakapura Road is witnessing strong interest in villa plots equipped with world-class amenities. The presence of reputed institutions such as Dayananda Sagar University and Jain University, along with spiritual centres like the Art of Living Foundation and Pyramid Valley International, has also contributed to the growing residential appeal of the region.

According to Sandhya N, a realtor, "Premium villa plots with BMRDA approvals and RERA certification are witnessing strong demand in the area. Kanakapura Road offers an excellent location advantage for both construction and investment."

Connectivity and expanding infrastructure continue to strengthen the locality's growing real estate potential.

–Prakash VL

Land acquisition timeline stretched for Bidadi project

The Karnataka government has extended the deadline to issue the final notification for land acquisition for the proposed Greater Bengaluru Integrated Satellite Township near Bidadi in Bengaluru South district.

The project, implemented by the Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA), requires the acquisition of 7,881 acres of land. A preliminary notification for the project was issued on March 12, 2025.

As the one-year deadline for issuing the final notification ended on March 12 this year, the Urban Development Department issued an order on March 9 extending the period until March 11, 2027, citing the scale of the project and administrative delays. Officials said the project covers more than 10,450 survey numbers across nine villages in Bidadi hobli.

The acquisition affects around 6,300 farmers, with about 6,731 acres under private ownership in villages including Byramangala, Bannigiri, Hosur, Vaderahalli, Kanchugaranahalli, Kempayyapalya, K G Gollarapalya, Mandalahalli and Aralasusandra.

Compensation ranging between ₹2.55 crore and ₹2.7 crore per acre has been announced, along with assurances of developed residential plots for eligible cultivators. Officials said compensation distribution may begin in early April.

GBDA Chairman Ganakal Nataraju said the extension is routine for large projects. He added that protests from some farmers and delays in joint measurement surveys slowed the process. **BMB**

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India's REIT market sees explosive growth

India's listed Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) market has expanded sharply from INR 271 billion in FY20 to INR 1,726 billion in the first nine months of FY26, marking nearly six-fold growth in less than six years, according to the CBRE India Real Estate Investment Market Outlook 2026. The growth has been driven by fresh listings, including Knowledge Realty Trust REIT in August 2025, and consistent unit price growth of over 20% year-on-year for four other REITs between Q3 FY25 and Q3 FY26.

Regulatory and policy changes are expected to further support the market in 2026. SEBI's reclassification of REITs as equity-related instruments, the RBI's proposal allowing banks to lend directly to REITs, and the Union Budget 2026–27 plan to monetise CPSE assets through dedicated REITs are likely to broaden investor participation and improve liquidity.

Analysts expect faster portfolio expansion, lower capital costs and increased institutional interest as the market continues to grow. Investor confidence remains strong, particularly in office assets and premium commercial portfolios. **BMB**

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31 convicts approved for early release

In a move aimed at prisoner rehabilitation, the Karnataka government has approved the premature release of 31 life convicts from various central prisons across the state based on merit and good conduct.

The decision followed a review by the Life Convicts Release (LCR) Committee, which examined 54 cases of inmates serving life sentences. After assessing their conduct, eligibility and prison advisory board recommendations, the committee found 31 prisoners fit for early release.

Officials said the Constitution allows the President and Governors to grant pardons and clemency, while state governments can recommend remission under the Code of Criminal Procedure. Most approved cases are from Bengaluru Central Prison, followed by Mysuru, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Dharwad and Shivamogga. Two cases require Union Home Ministry consent. —BMB

₹27 crore TDR fraud exposed

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has filed a prosecution complaint before a special court on March 11, 2026, in a major Transferable Development Rights (TDR) scam involving M/s Valmark Realty Holdings Pvt Ltd (VRHPL) and 19 others, including BBMP officials. The accused allegedly sold TDR to real estate firms and individuals, generating illegal gains of about ₹27.68 crore.

TDR, or Development Rights Certificates (DRC), allows landowners to receive built-up area benefits when land is surrendered free for public projects such as road widening under the Master Plan.

The ED began its probe based on FIRs filed by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in 2019. The chargesheet alleges VRHPL director Ratan Lath illegally obtained and sold DRCs, with proceeds routed through multiple bank accounts and invested in real estate and businesses. —BMB

Passenger held after bomb remark

A passenger landed in legal trouble at Bengaluru airport after allegedly using the word "bomb" during an argument with airline staff, triggering a security alert.

The incident occurred on Wednesday at Terminal 1 of Kempegowda International Airport when an IndiGo flight from Bengaluru to Raipur was preparing to depart. According to the FIR, 40-year-old Rajtesh Bera reached Boarding Gate 16 after boarding had closed. When staff denied him entry, he allegedly remarked, "Is the flight delayed only if there is a bomb on board?" Treating the mention of "bomb" as a security threat, airline staff alerted BIAL Police. Bera, a musician from West Bengal, was detained, questioned and later released on station bail. Police are continuing the investigation. —BMB

Neighbourhood not in the spirit

Yelahanka locality erupts in protest as community resists planned pub near homes, citing safety fears for students

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Neighbours stage demonstrations outside new building, demand authorities revoke excise permit before outlet begins operations in quiet residential area

Residents of Kamakshamma Layout in Yelahanka have approached the authorities against the plan to open a bar and restaurant in their area.

Residents have been staging protests outside the newly constructed building where the establishment is expected to begin operations in the coming days. They point out that for nearly 40 years the locality has had no bars, restaurants or MRP outlets, as the community has consistently opposed such businesses.

Damodhar, a resident, said that an earlier attempt to open a bar and restaurant in the area was dropped after public opposition. "We have lived peacefully all these years without any nuisance. We will continue protesting until the authorities cancel the plan," he said.

Supporting the residents, Congress leader Keshav Rajanna said political parties across affiliations have united to oppose the proposal, especially since several schools are located nearby. He added that the building is only a few hundred metres from the railway station. "We have sought an appointment with the Excise Minister and will urge him to direct officials to cancel the licence," he said.

R Srinivasulu, president of the Thogata Veera Kshatriya Sangha, Yelahanka, said the bar could create problems for women and children if it opens in the residential area. He said residents have already submitted letters to the police and local MLA seeking intervention.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner (Excise) said he is aware of the opposition and will look into the matter. He added that action will be taken as per the law if residents submit a formal representation to his office.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

ECHOES OF NATURE Our reader shares a charming image of a Red-whiskered Bulbul perched on a vibrant Bottle-brush tree, captured from a terrace amid the bustle of the urban landscape. Despite the surrounding noise and pollution, the Bulbul returns often to its favourite tree, filling the air with its loud, musical calls reminding us that preserving trees keeps nature alive even in our concrete jungle.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Venkatalakshmi S**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Bonobos have long been seen as the peaceful, "make love, not war" relatives of chimpanzees, but a new study suggests their reputation may be oversimplified. Researchers observed aggressive behaviours in 22 groups of bonobos and chimpanzees at 16 European zoos and found that both species showed similar overall rates of aggression, including charging, biting, slapping, and kicking. However, the pattern of aggression differed between them. In chimpanzees, aggression was mostly led by males and directed at both males and females, reflecting their patriarchal social structure where males compete for dominance and resources. In contrast, bonobos have a matriarchal system in which females form strong alliances. Female bonobos were found to be more aggressive than female chimpanzees, and aggression in bonobo groups was often directed at males rather than females. Despite their image as peaceful animals, bonobos still rely on aggression as part of social life, though it is distributed differently. They are also known for resolving tension through socio-sexual behaviour and maintaining more peaceful relations with neighbouring groups. Scientists say these differences help explain how power structures shape aggression in both primates and humans. **— Reuters**

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

Namma Metro to add trains as rising crowds strain services

BMRCL plans new train sets for Purple, Green, Pink and Blue lines to cut waiting time and manage growing passenger rush across Bengaluru network

With passenger traffic increasing steadily on Namma Metro, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is preparing to add new train sets to the existing network to reduce congestion and waiting time for commuters. Along with strengthening services on the operational Purple and Green lines, additional trains are also being planned for the upcoming Pink and Blue corridors, which are expected to begin operations in phases over the next year.

Currently, around 57 train sets are operating on the Purple and Green lines of Namma Metro. However, during peak hours, trains are often overcrowded, forcing many commuters to wait on platforms for long periods. The situation is particularly difficult at the Majestic interchange station, where passengers sometimes wait for nearly 30 minutes to board a train due to heavy rush.

To ease congestion, BMRCL plans to introduce three additional trains into service by May or June this year. Officials said one train was added to the Purple Line last year, while another for the Green Line arrived earlier this month. Before entering service, the trains must undergo more than 37 technical tests, including signalling integration, traction checks and speed trials. Once completed, the trains will be cleared for passenger operations.

The metro authority had signed a contract in 2019 with Chinese rolling stock manufacturer CRRC to supply 36 train sets at a cost of about ₹1,578 crore. Of these, 15 trains are meant for the Yellow Line and 21 for the Purple and Green lines. So far, two prototype trains have been supplied, one with Distance-to-Go (DTG) signalling for the Purple Line and another with Communication-Based Train Control (CBTC) for the Yellow Line, enabling driverless operations.

Metro train seen on city track while BMRCL prepares to introduce more rolling stock after signalling, traction and speed trials to reduce peak-hour congestion

The remaining trains are being supplied through CRRC's subcontractor, Titagarh Rail Systems, based in West Bengal. The company has delivered seven driverless trains for the Yellow Line and one each for the Purple and Green lines, while 26 train sets are still pending. BMRCL has also placed orders with Bengaluru-based BEML to meet demand for new corridors. In 2023, BEML secured a ₹3,177 crore contract to supply 318 metro coaches, equal to 53 train sets, for the Pink and Blue lines. Of these, 37 trains are for the Blue Line from Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport, and 16 for the Pink Line. Another ₹405 crore agreement was signed last year for seven additional Pink Line coaches.

Officials said BEML has delivered a prototype CBTC-enabled train, now undergoing trial runs. Due to delays in Yellow Line trains, BMRCL has also signed a fresh agreement with BEML to procure six more train sets.

Commuters say more trains are needed as ridership rises, with many waiting for two or three trains at Majestic during peak hours before finding space to board. **— BMB**

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Fake video warning: Manipulated clip of Indian Army Chief circulating on social media regarding Iranian ship

The Claim: Pakistani propaganda accounts shared a digitally edited video claiming Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said India informed Israel about an Iranian ship's location under a strategic deal in international waters.

Fact: PIB Fact Check clarified the video is an AI-generated deepfake. General Upendra Dwivedi made no such statement, and the clip was maliciously edited to spread misinformation and mislead people about India's actions.

The PIB Fact Check has busted a myth being propagated by Pakistani propaganda accounts, which shared maliciously edited clips of Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and made false claims using the altered video. The PIB Fact Check clarified that General Dwivedi has made no such statement as being circulated online. In a post on X, PIB Fact Check issued a warning and said, "Deepfake Video Alert: Pakistani propaganda accounts are sharing a digitally manipulated video of the Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, making false claims that when the Iranian ship crossed the international waters, as Israeli strategic allies, it was our duty to inform Israel about their exact location as a part of our newer strategic deal. Beware! This is an AI-generated deepfake video shared to mislead the public. General Upendra Dwivedi has made NO such statement."

Here we have india backstabbing iran.
This by sharing the exact location of that particular iranian ship with Israel, leading to it being targeted and destroyed by a US submarine.
"Iranian naval ship being sunk is indeed unfortunate but it was done in international waters. As long the Iranian ship remained in Indian waters, they remained protected but when they crossed the international waters, as Israeli strategic allies, it was our duty to inform Israel about their exact location as a part of our newer strategic deal"
(General Upendra Dwivedi)

DIGITALLY ALTERED

Underlining India's position on the recent volatile developments in the Indian Ocean region, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the issue of the sinking of an Iranian naval vessel, IRIS Dena, which had earlier returned from India after participating in the International Fleet Review. The vessel was reportedly sunk by the United States while it was sailing in international waters. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue on March 7, the Minister highlighted India's contrasting approach in the matter, noting that India had extended support to another Iranian vessel, IRIS Lavan, which had requested permission to dock at Kochi after facing technical problems. The IRIS Lavan had also taken part in the International Fleet Review and MILAN 2026 exercises held between February 15 and February 25.

According to the Minister, India had received a request from Iran a few days before the IRIS Dena incident near the waters south of Sri Lanka. The Iranian ship was present in the region as part of the naval deployment for the Fleet Review and the MILAN exercise. India approved the docking request on March 1, and the vessel later reached Kochi, where its 183 crew members are currently staying at naval facilities.

Describing the sinking of IRIS Dena as unfortunate, Jaishankar said India followed a humane approach when Iran requested assistance for IRIS Lavan. He explained that the ship reported technical difficulties and sought entry into an Indian port, and India allowed it to dock after assessing the situation. He added that many of the crew members were young cadets and had disembarked safely, staying in nearby facilities.

The Minister said that when the ships had originally set out for the Fleet Review, the situation was completely different, but events later took an unexpected turn. He stated that India's decision was guided by humanitarian considerations rather than legal or strategic complications, and that India believed it had taken the right decision by allowing the vessel to dock and ensuring the safety of the crew. **— PTI**

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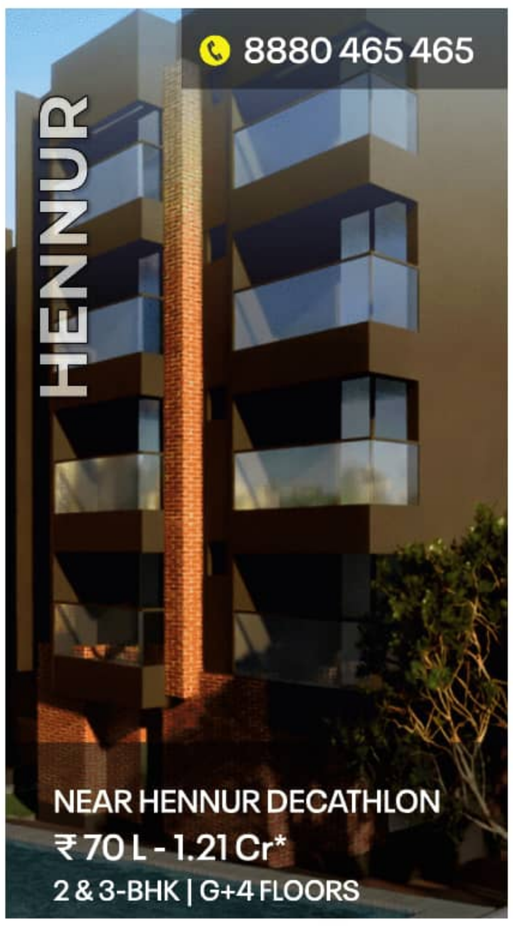

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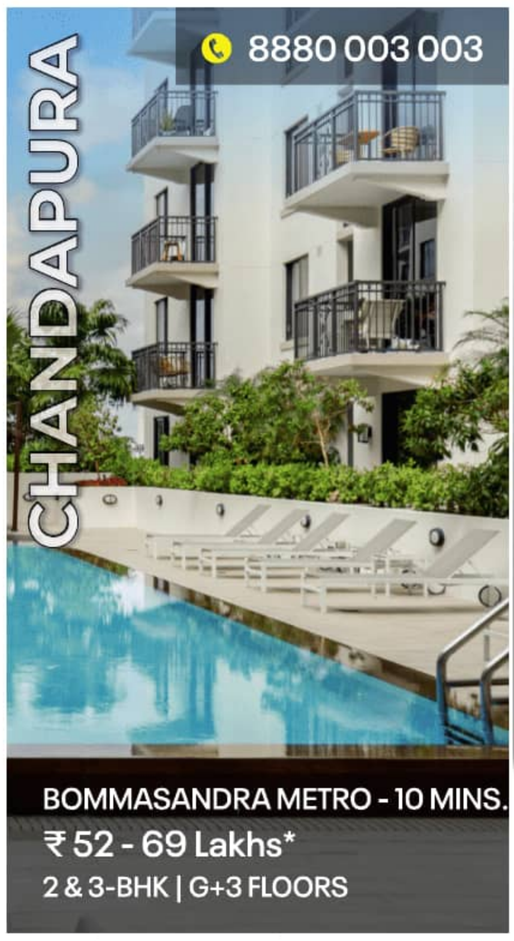

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Manipal Hospital Hosts Kidney Day Conclave

Prevention Through Awareness and Timely Screening

With kidney diseases rising steadily across India, Manipal specialists have stressed the need for early screening, lifestyle awareness and greater public understanding of kidney donation. Addressing a conclave organised by Manipal Hospitals ahead of World Kidney Day on March 12, Dr. H. Sudarshan Ballal, Chairman, Manipal Hospitals, highlighted the importance of protecting kidney health and building awareness around organ donation. The event was held under the global theme "Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet."

Quoting the traditional Sanskrit line "Shubham Karoti Kalyanam, Aarogyam Dhana Sampada", he noted that wealth and prosperity can only be enjoyed when a person is blessed with good health. While people are generally cautious about heart health and other visible medical issues, kidney health often receives far less attention despite its critical role in sustaining life. According to him, this lack of awareness can lead to serious health consequences, particularly when kidney disease is detected late.

During the programme, specialists from the hospital explained the role of the kidneys, the risks associated with kidney disease and the importance of timely diagnosis and treatment. Nephrologists and urologists also discussed current screening practices, treatment advances and the growing importance of kidney transplantation as a life-saving option for patients with end-stage kidney disease.

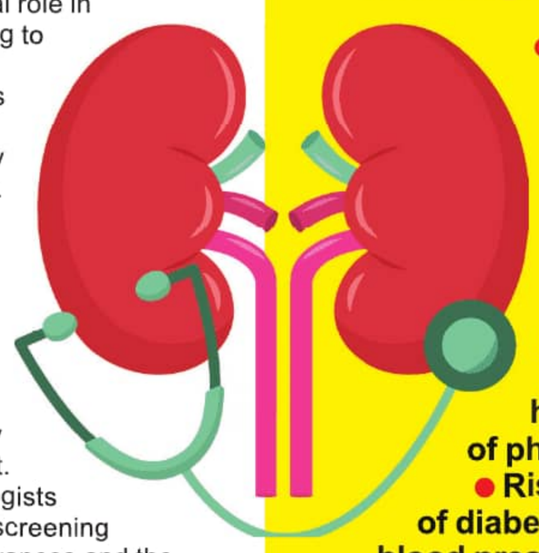
Explaining the function of the kidneys, Dr. Ballal said they are among the most vital organs in the human body and perform several life-sustaining tasks. The kidneys continuously filter the blood, removing metabolic waste, excess fluids and toxins from the body through urine while also helping regulate blood pressure, electrolyte balance and red blood cell production.

However, when kidney function declines, these waste products begin to accumulate in the bloodstream, leading to symptoms such as swelling in the hands and legs, persistent fatigue, breathlessness, fluid retention and other systemic complications.

One of the major challenges with kidney disease, he pointed out, is that it often progresses silently. In many cases, symptoms become noticeable only after nearly 90% of kidney function has already been lost, making treatment far more difficult.

Once severe kidney damage occurs, restoring normal function becomes extremely challenging, which is why early detection through regular health screening is crucial. Doctors at the conclave emphasised that routine tests such as blood creatinine levels, urine examination and blood pressure monitoring can help detect kidney problems at an early stage and prevent further deterioration. Dr Ballal also underlined the need to create greater awareness about kidney donation, noting that informed communities and medically supervised donation programmes can help save thousands of lives of patients waiting for transplants.

Major Causes of Kidney Damage



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- High salt intake in daily diet
- Stressful lifestyle
- Sedentary habits and lack of physical activity
- Rising incidence of diabetes and high blood pressure among younger individuals
- Elevated cholesterol levels

Successful Treatment for Renal Tumours

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vishwanath S, HOD & Consultant - Nephrology and Transplant Physician, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road said, "In India, nearly 10 out of every 100 people suffer from some form of kidney problem, and many of them are between 18 and 40 years of age. Around 10% among them are affected by chronic kidney disease. At Manipal Hospitals, experienced transplant surgeons, paediatric specialists and anaesthesia teams work together to provide successful and comprehensive treatment."

Dr. Ravi Jangamani, Consultant – Nephrology, Transplant Physician, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road said, "Kidney donation remains one of the most effective solutions for patients with kidney failure. Healthy individuals between the ages of 20 and 60 can safely donate a kidney after undergoing a thorough medical evaluation. Donors usually recover well and their health returns to normal within a few weeks."

Dr. Anand Patil, Consultant - Uro-Oncology, Robotic Surgery and Renal Transplantation, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road highlighted a growing concern in northern parts of Karnataka. "In recent years, kidney-related disorders have increased in the region. In areas with intense heat, cases of kidney stones among young individuals are rising." He also spoke about kidney cancer and highlighted that if small renal tumours measuring less than 4 cm are detected at an early stage, it is possible to remove the tumour while preserving the kidney, instead of removing the entire organ. "With advanced diagnostic imaging and robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgical technologies available at Manipal Hospitals, renal tumours can now be managed with greater precision. These techniques improve surgical accuracy and significantly reduce blood loss," he added.

Robotic Technology Enables More Effective Treatment

Dr. Kishore Babu, Senior Consultant - Nephrology & Transplant Physician, said, "Kidney disease often shows minimal symptoms in its early stages, and in many cases, 80 - 90% of kidney function may already be lost before noticeable symptoms appear, making early screening extremely important. Signs such as frequent urination at night in younger individuals or poor growth in children should not be ignored." Discussing dialysis advancements, Dr. Hemanth Kumar M K, Consultant – Interventional Nephrology, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road said, "Dialysis alone cannot cure kidney disease. It is a supportive treatment that performs some of the functions of the kidney on behalf of the body. If kidney disease is detected at an early stage, robotic-assisted treatment can offer better outcomes." Speaking about the latest developments in kidney cancer treatment, Dr. Naveen Kumar Reddy M, Consultant - Urology (Advanced EndoUrology, Robotic Uro-Oncology, Kidney Transplant & Androlohy), Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road said, "The use of robotic partial nephrectomy is increasing. This technique enables surgeons to remove the tumour while preserving the healthy portion of the kidney. In many cases, tumours smaller than 4 cm and, in selected cases, even tumours up to about 7 cm in size can be effectively removed through robotic surgery."

Rising Concern Over Hypertension Among Youth

"Due to changing lifestyles, nearly 60–70% of young individuals are experiencing high blood pressure. Obesity, excessive salt intake, smoking, lack of physical activity and sleep disorders are among the major contributing factors," said Dr. Rohan Augustine, Consultant – Nephrology, and Transplant Physician, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road. "Only about 50% of people with hypertension are even aware of their condition, and among them, barely 40% receive proper treatment," he noted.

Dr. Mohammed Fahad Khan, Consultant – Nephrology, and Transplant Physician, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road cautioned against the indiscriminate use of herbal medicines. "Though many of these treatments are marketed as 'natural', they may contain harmful substances such as lead and other heavy metals. These compounds can cause severe damage to the kidneys and, in some cases, may even lead to kidney failure requiring dialysis," he warned.

Dr. Suryakant Choubey, Consultant - Urologist, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road said, "At Manipal Hospitals, patients benefit from modern kidney biopsy services, a state-of-the-art dialysis centre and a multidisciplinary team comprising nephrologists, urologists, transplant surgeons and supportive care specialists, ensuring comprehensive and high-quality treatment." Dr. Mohammed Shahid Ali, Consultant – Uro-Oncology Robotic Surgery and Renal Transplantation, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road, also spoke about the importance of protecting kidney health.

Advanced Dialysis Services

"Kidney disorders are increasing year after year, and modern lifestyle patterns and dietary habits are among the major reasons," said Dr. Shivashankar R, Consultant – Urology, Kidney Transplant Surgery, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road. "At Manipal Hospitals, specialised dialysis systems are supported by ultra-pure water technology and advanced filtration mechanisms, which help maintain cardiovascular stability during dialysis," he explained. Dr. Shilpa Shetty, Consultant – Nephrology, Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road pointed out that

among young people, excessive intake of certain high-protein nutritional supplements without medical guidance can also pose risks. Speaking further, Dr. Ballal said, "At Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road, we offer advanced dialysis facilities. Hemodiafiltration is an advanced dialysis technique that helps remove toxins from the body more effectively. Compared to conventional dialysis, it improves toxin clearance and can lead to better overall clinical outcomes."

High-protein dietary practices have also contributed to rising kidney problems. Many young people consume excessive protein supplements based solely on gym trainers' advice, often without proper medical supervision. Such habits can place unnecessary strain on the kidneys and increase the risk of long-term complications.

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State govt asked to respond on civil suits deadlines

Court seeks State reply on plea challenging rigid deadline for filing written statements in civil cases

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court has sought the State government's response to a petition challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions introduced through the Code of Civil Procedure (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2024, which impose a strict time limit for filing written statements in civil suits.

A single-judge bench of Justice Ashok S Kinagi, sitting at the Dharwad Bench, observed that the issue requires careful consideration, particularly in light of the rigid 120-day deadline prescribed under the amended law. The court granted the Government Advocate two weeks to place the State's objections on record.

The petition challenges Section 4 of the amendment, which modifies Order VIII Rule 1 of the Code of Civil Procedure. Under the revised provision, a defendant is barred from filing a written statement once 120 days have passed from the date of service of summons. The amendment states that the court cannot accept the written statement beyond this period, irrespective of the circumstances.

The writ petition has been filed by litigants represented by advocate Shivaraj S Balloli. They contend that the amendment removes the court's discretion to permit delayed filing of written statements and imposes an inflexible deadline on defendants in civil cases. According to them, failure to submit the defence within 120 days results in forfeiture of the right to place a written statement before the court.

Petition argues strict filing limit denies fair defence, raising concerns over justice, discretion, and constitutional rights in courts

The petitioners argue that the strict timeline was earlier applicable mainly in commercial disputes, and extending it to all civil cases ignores practical difficulties faced by litigants. They submit that the amendment creates a mechanical system in which defendants lose their right to defend a suit once the deadline expires, without the court being able to consider exceptional circumstances.

They further contend that the provision violates Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution and curtails the inherent powers of courts under Section 151 of the CPC. Relying on the Supreme Court's ruling in Kailash v Nanku (2005), the petitioners argue that procedural rules should not be interpreted in a manner that denies parties an opportunity to participate in the justice process.

The dispute arises from a land encroachment case in Belagavi district, where a trial court in February 2026 refused to accept the petitioners' written statement after the 120-day limit. The petitioners claim the delay occurred due to repeated adjournments on interim applications, during which the case file remained in the judge's chambers, making timely filing difficult.

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, CHALLARAJ EMMANUEL EMMANUEL SWAMIKANNU residing at No. 2066/1, New No 5, 14th Cross, Oil Mill Road, Mangala Layout, Bengaluru-560084 have changed my name to CHALLARAJ EMMANUEL vide affidavit dated 13/03/2026 sworn before notary B Seshagiri Bengaluru

I Rajkumar Janjari S/O, Late Ratanlal Janjari R/o #3002-002/a, 3rd Floor, 4th Main, C Block, Gayatrinagar, Bangalore 560021 have changed my name to Rajkumar Jain.

I, Vaidehi Arjun Bhalodia, W/o Sri. Arjun Shailesh Bhalodia R/o No. E 301, Grand Gandharva Apartment, 1st Main, kenchenahalli, Raja rajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru 560098 I have changed my name from Vaidehi Bharatbhai Zalavadiya to Vaidehi Arjun Bhalodia vide sworn before notary K. V Prema Kumari Bangalore dated 13.03.2026

I, Jyothi Prabhu Vivek Prabhu W/o Vivek Prabhu S, R/o 265, CQAL Layout, Sahakar Nagar, Bangalore-560092 have changed my name to Jyothi Prabhu K for all purposes

I, Harshitha N, currently residing at Varthur, Bangalore 560087 have changed my name to Harshitha Karanam W/O Karthik Karanam. Vide Affidavit No. IN-KA01952052362101Y.

I, Souvik Seal, S/o Sandip Seal, R/o Door No. 303, 4th Floor, Sai Kalyan Homes, Nagappa Reddy Layout, Kaggadasapura, C. V. Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560093, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sauvik Seal to SOUVIK SEAL for all purposes

I, KUNAL C JAIN, R/at # Mohana Blossom, 3rd Flr, 3rd Crs, 2nd Mn Rd, Chamrajpet, Near Bata Showroom, B'lore-18, I Have changed to KUNAL JAIN vide Aff dtd 10.03.2026, sworn before Notary DEVARAJA. E, B'lore

I, Suresh Kumar, S/o Shankarappa R/o R.V Lakshaman Vilas Apt # 402, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Ramanajaneya Nagar, Chikkalasandra, Bengaluru - 560061, have changed my name to Suresh Patil.

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Decision to allow dentists to do cosmetic surgeries under the knife

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Leading medical bodies representing plastic surgeons and dermatologists have raised serious concerns over patient safety following a decision that allows dentists to perform complex procedures such as hair transplants and facial reconstructive surgeries.

The issue was highlighted by the Association of Plastic Surgeons of India (APSI) and the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL), which warned that permitting dental surgeons to carry out complex aesthetic and reconstructive procedures could compromise patient safety due to inadequate medical training in these areas.

The concern arises from permissions granted in recent years by the Dental Council of India (DCI) under the Dentists Act, 1948, allowing professionals from the dental field to undertake such procedures. APSI and IADVL stated that hair transplantation, aesthetic surgery, maxillofacial reconstruction and craniofacial procedures are complex surgical interventions that traditionally fall under the domain of specialists trained in modern scientific medicine. These include dermatologists and plastic surgeons regulated by the National Medical Commission (NMC) under the NMC Act, 2019.

Dentists allowed to do hair transplants and facial reconstructive surgeries

APSI said its members are registered medical practitioners who have completed MBBS followed by advanced training such as MS and MCh or DNB in plastic and reconstructive surgery, recognised as a super-speciality by the NMC. According to the associations, the present dental curriculum does not provide the depth of medical training required to safely perform procedures like hair transplantation. They said limited exposure to systemic medical knowledge and surgical complications could put patients at risk of severe or life-threatening outcomes.

The organisations also pointed out that the matter has reached the judiciary. After the guidelines were challenged in the Madras High Court through a writ petition, the NMC filed an affidavit stating that hair transplantation and cosmetic procedures are part of modern medicine and should only be performed by registered medical practitioners. The commission noted that hair transplant procedures require a detailed understanding of hair disorders, systemic health conditions and the ability to manage potential life-threatening complications.

Unqualified practitioners performing hair transplants raise safety concerns, associations seek stricter rules.

Plastic surgeons, dermatologists oppose dentists doing cosmetic surgeries, citing poor training, complications, patient safety risks

WAR UPDATES

LPG shortage disrupts food supply chain across city

B'luru grapples with ripple effects of conflict, with gas supply disruption affecting restaurant operations and inadvertently smaller businesses and traders depending on industry

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

The ongoing tensions involving Israel, United States and Iran are now being felt far from the conflict zone, reaching kitchens in India. The impact of the geopolitical situation has begun to affect the supply of commercial LPG cylinders in Karnataka, triggering disruptions across multiple sectors. Over the past four to five days, the supply of commercial gas cylinders has been inconsistent, leaving hotel owners struggling to continue operations. Several eateries in Bengaluru have already shut temporarily due to the shortage.

The disruption is now extending beyond hotels. Cooking oil retailers say they are also facing supply issues and warn that shops may be forced to shut if the situation continues. This could bring another shock for city residents who are already dealing with reduced food services.

KAUSHIK JN

Several eateries in Bengaluru have already shut temporarily due to the shortage

Oil shortage

A cooking oil shop owner said supplies have been erratic for nearly a week. "For the past seven days we have not been receiving regular stock. If we book 100 to 200 boxes, agents are sending only 20 to 50 boxes," the shop owner said. "When we ask why, they simply say supply is not available and that they cannot send more boxes," the owner added. According to retailers, the price has also increased by around Rs 15 to Rs 20 per box in recent days, adding to the pressure on small businesses.

Hospital impact

The shortage of commercial LPG cylinders has also affected food outlets around Victoria Hospital. At a food stall operating inside the hospital premises, only limited dishes such as rice, sambar and basic rice meals are currently available. Staff said they have stopped preparing items like Chinese dishes and tandoor foods as these require higher gas usage.

Market slowdown

The shortage has also affected vegetable traders at KR Market. With many darshinis and roadside eateries either closed or operating at reduced capacity, traders say demand for bulk vegetables has dropped sharply. "Hotels used to buy vegetables in bulk every day. Now many of them are shut, so there is hardly anyone coming to purchase large quantities," said a trader in the market. Some farmers are also feeling the impact. "Even farmers who bring vegetables to the market are seeing reduced demand. In some cases, they are leaving produce in the fields because there are not enough buyers," another trader said.

Gas suspension

Amid the supply crisis, the Karnataka government has reportedly decided to halt LPG supply to hotels for 10 days in order to prioritise domestic consumers. The decision has triggered strong opposition from hotel owners. Krishnaraj, owner of Nisarga Hotel, said the industry is facing an uncertain future. "We attended a meeting with the Food Minister this morning. Officials told us that gas cannot be supplied to hotels for the next 10 days and that we should make alternative arrangements," he said. "We pleaded with them, but they did not consider our request. We even asked them to provide at least two cylinders per hotel, but they refused," he added.

Industry concern

Hotel owners say the government itself acknowledged that the state currently has enough LPG stock for about a month, but the supply is being reserved exclusively for domestic use.

According to industry representatives, hotels cannot function without gas cylinders. They warn that the shutdown will not only affect hotel owners and employees but also the entire supply chain. "If hotels stop operating, it will impact vegetable suppliers, milk vendors and several small businesses that depend on the industry," Krishnaraj said. He also pointed out that expecting people to bring food from home is not practical in a city like Bengaluru.

Gas fee

The LPG shortage has also led to another unusual development in some cities. Hotels in places such as Chennai and Bengaluru have reportedly begun adding a separate "gas fee" to customer bills. In one instance in Chennai, a customer who ordered idli and vada was surprised to see a line item labelled "Gas Fee – Rs 9.52" added to the bill along with GST. The customer shared a photo of the bill on social media platform X, where it quickly went viral. Similar complaints have emerged from Bengaluru as well. A customer alleged that a hotel charged an additional Rs 30 as a gas charge. The bill photo shared online has triggered widespread debate. Several social media users criticised the move, arguing that businesses should manage supply issues instead of passing the burden directly to customers. Many questioned why hotels had not stocked sufficient supplies earlier if shortage was anticipated.

Home kitchens feel LPG shortage heat

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

switched off or not available. But they also say you should keep trying," she explained. Some residents said they had to spend several hours attempting to book a refill before the request finally went through.

"I started trying to book using my old gas agency number from around 1 pm. I kept trying continuously and only around 10.30 pm, the booking finally went through. All the lines seemed jammed," another consumer said. The resident added that while a message confirming the booking had been received, there was still no update about the delivery timeline. "I got a message saying the booking is confirmed, but there is no message about when the cylinder will actually be delivered," the person said.

However, gas agency owners say there is no supply shortage, but bookings have gone up. Krishna, who runs a gas agency, said that there is currently no disruption in the supply of domestic cylinders. "Earlier, we used to supply around 1,000 cylinders a day. Now the bookings have gone up to between 1,500 and 2,000 daily. Because of the high volume of bookings, we are facing difficulties in delivering cylinders on time. At the same time, the large number of people calling for bookings and inquiries has caused the helplines to get jammed," he said.

Induction stove shortage

With uncertainty over gas supply, many residents are now turning to induction stoves as an alternative for cooking. However, consumers say even that option is becoming difficult as several models are already sold out on online platforms.

Harsha, an IT professional in the city, said he tried to purchase an induction stove online after hearing about the ongoing supply disruption. "I tried to buy an induction stove from a few online platforms, but most of the models were not available. Almost everything was sold out except one or two brands," he said. According to residents, the rush to find alternatives comes amid concerns that the LPG supply disruption could continue for several more days.

Piped gas concern

Some residents, who depend on piped gas connections, say they are also feeling anxious about the situation. Suresh Nair, a resident of Hesaraghatta Road, said he shifted to an apartment with piped gas last year and surrendered his LPG cylinder connection. Now, he fears what could happen if the piped gas supply is disrupted. "One year ago, I moved to an apartment that has a piped gas facility, so I surrendered my gas cylinder. Now I am worried. If the piped gas supply suddenly stops, I will not have a cylinder as backup either," he said.

He added that many residents in apartment complexes are discussing possible alternatives in case the supply chain issues worsen.

Tea shops shut

The shortage is also affecting small tea stalls and late-night food outlets across the city. Vikram Shetty, who works in the hospitality sector, said he realised the extent of the disruption during his late-night commute home. "I usually come home late at night and it is my habit to stop for a cup of tea. But to my surprise, many tea shops were not operating. Several of them are shut because of the gas shortage," he said. The LPG supply disruption has already forced some hotels and eateries to reduce operations, and traders say the ripple effect is being felt across the city's food ecosystem.

Gas supply cut at Yelahanka power plant

The ongoing Middle East conflict has caused a domestic natural gas shortage, prompting the central government to prioritise gas for household use, leaving sectors like transport, fertilisers, and power generation lower on the list. As a result, the Gas Authority of India, which had already reduced supply to the Yelahanka gas-based power plant by 20 per cent, has now completely halted the supply from March 12.

The Yelahanka plant, operated by KPCL, is the state's only gas-based facility with a daily generation capacity of 370 MW, which has now come to a standstill. While the state's daily electricity demand is around 355 lakh units and current supply is matching this, peak demand in Bengaluru reaches 6,000 MW. The halt in gas supply may cause minor disruptions in overall electricity generation. **–BMB**

'Don't panic book cylinders'

Amid growing concerns over the availability of LPG cylinders in parts of India, the Bangalore Apartments' Federation (BAF) has issued an advisory to apartment associations across Bengaluru urging residents to adopt responsible cooking gas usage and avoid panic booking of cylinders.

In a communication titled "BAF Advisory to Apartment Associations, Responsible LPG Usage and Contingency Measures" circulated on March 13, the federation said collective action by urban residential communities could help prevent unnecessary strain on the LPG distribution system.

BAF cautioned residents against booking multiple LPG cylinders out of fear of shortage. According to the federation, panic booking and stockpiling can create artificial scarcity in the supply chain and affect households that depend entirely on LPG for daily cooking. "Residents are strongly advised not to book additional cylinders unless required. Panic booking directly disrupts the distribution system and impacts other households," the advisory stated.

As an alternative, BAF encouraged residents to partially shift to electric cooking appliances wherever feasible, especially in apartment complexes that have relatively stable electricity supply. It recommended the use of induction cooktops for routine cooking and boiling, electric pressure cookers for preparing rice, lentils and curries, and appliances such as air fryers or electric grills for frying and roasting.

The federation noted that if households temporarily shift even 30–40 per cent of their cooking to electricity, it could significantly reduce overall LPG consumption within apartment communities.

Management committees of residential complexes were also urged to play an active role in spreading awareness among residents. **–BMB**

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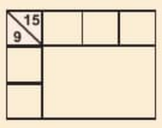
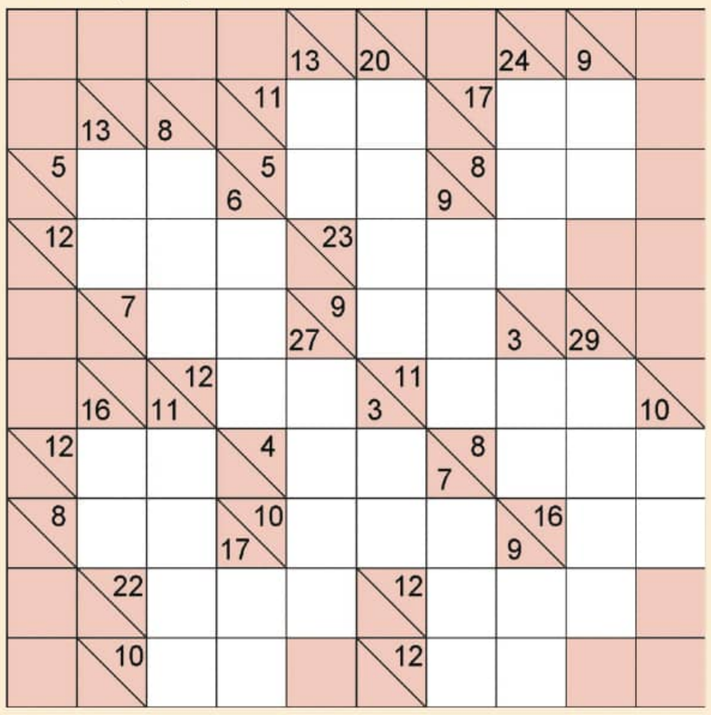
Kakuro

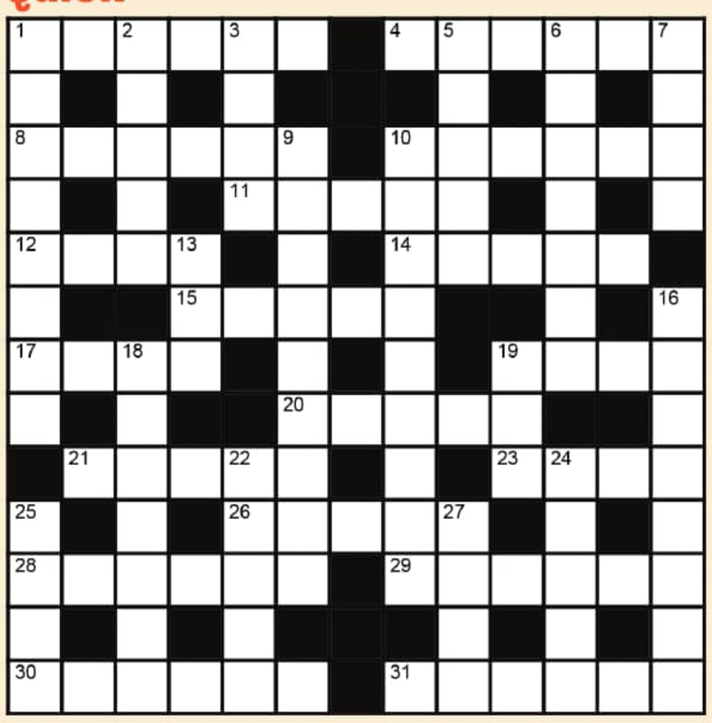
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Military combat (6)
4 Advantageous (6)
8 Breathe in (6)
10 Proved false (6)
11 Recorded (5)
12 Peak (4)
14 Fabricating (5)
15 Highly important (5)
17 Of local origin locally (4)
19 The game __ __ : you are exposed (2,2)
20 Desires or needs (5)
21 Chinese port (5)
23 Earth's satellite (4)
26 Filling between tiles (5)
28 Hindu hermitage (6)
29 Mob or crowd (6)
30 Make unhappy or distress (6)
31 Dishes (6)

DOWN

1 Highwaymen (8)
2 American lake (5)
3 Cheerful tune (4)
5 Run-down (5)
6 Allies, cronies or pals (7)
7 Boys (4)
9 Creature living in soil (9)
10 Bangalore's largest lake (9)
13 16 in Roman numerals (3)
16 Wrenches (8)
18 Shattered violently (7)
19 Any doctrine (3)
22 Large marble (5)
24 Planetary path (5)
25 Puts in tins (4)
27 Standing high (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: N EQUALS G

NKKJ EMVOBE PR QKB RKAM-BEPQN YM FVQ ZHG. EKYMIMC, PB FVQ ZM VQ MTBC.MAMOG IVOHVZOM RVIPQNR VFFKHQB.

Linemaro

I am bad in history,
but I can remember
when I first saw you

Mindchow

Life is a flower of which
love is the honey

Joke of the day

Holland lies so low
that they are saved
only by being dammed

Loop

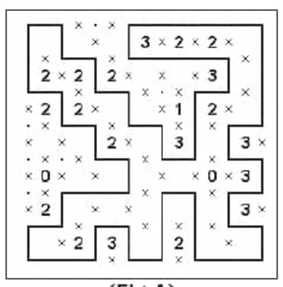
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

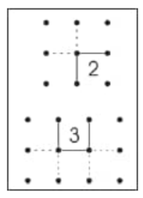
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

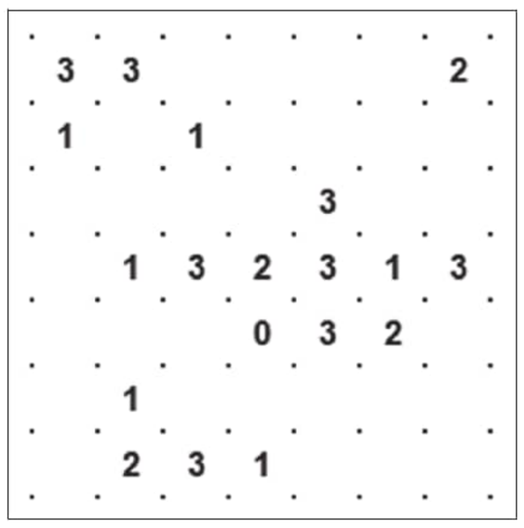
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



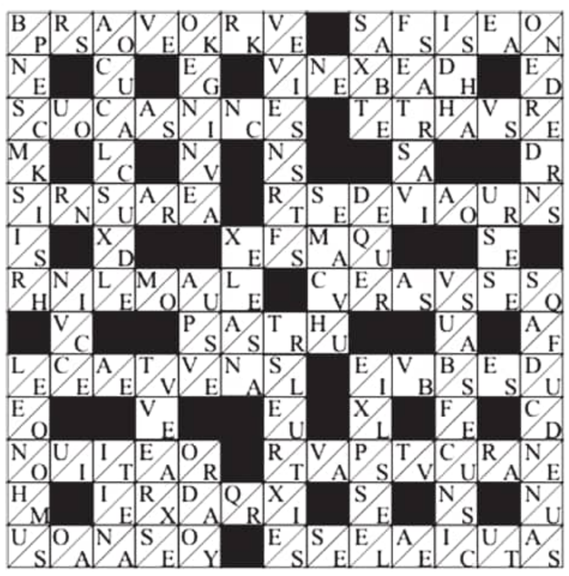
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



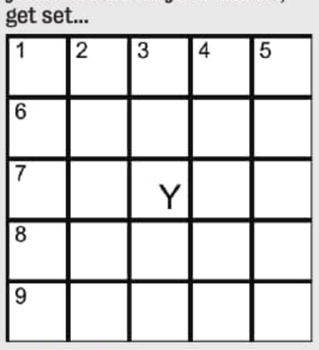
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

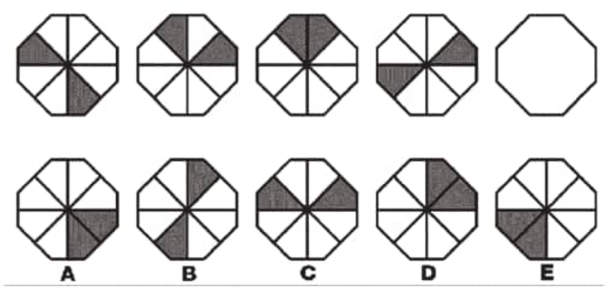
1 Cusks; 6 C Noel; 7 Ya Ron; 8 Maple; 9 Lam us

DOWN

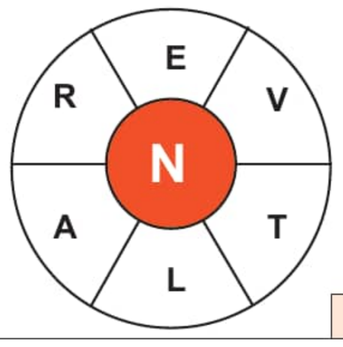
1 Crams; 2 A alum; 3 Yo cup; 4 Noll K; 5 Sense

Mensapuzzle

Which of the bottom shapes fits on the end of the top line?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

17 Average; 19 Good; 21 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2	1				9	6		
		4				9		
3		5	8			2		7
9					6		4	
			4		1			
	5		7					6
1		9			7	5		8
		8				4		
		2	3				9	1

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 3

3 9 8 7

Medium

= 9

3 4 4 3

Hard

= 3

1 3 3 9

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

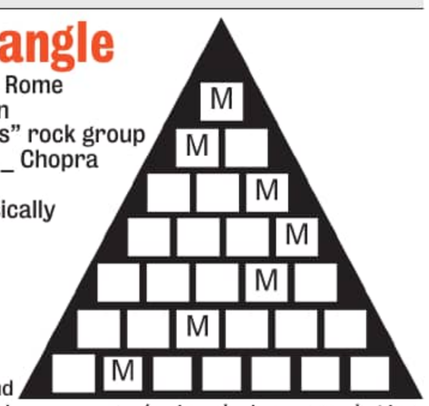
Differences: 1. Window is different. 2. Light is moved. 3. Paper is different. 4. Boy's collar is different 5. Bag is larger. 6. Boy is moved.

Riddler

A boat has a ladder that has six rungs. Each rung is one foot apart. The bottom rung is one foot from the water. The tide rises at 12 inches every 15 minutes. High tide peaks in one hour. When the tide is at its highest, how many rungs are under water?

Alpha triangle

1 10x100 in ancient Rome
2 Personal pronoun
3 "Everybody hurts" rock group
4 Bollywood villain _ Chopra
5 Makes hair wavy
6 Throughout, musically
7 Female ruler

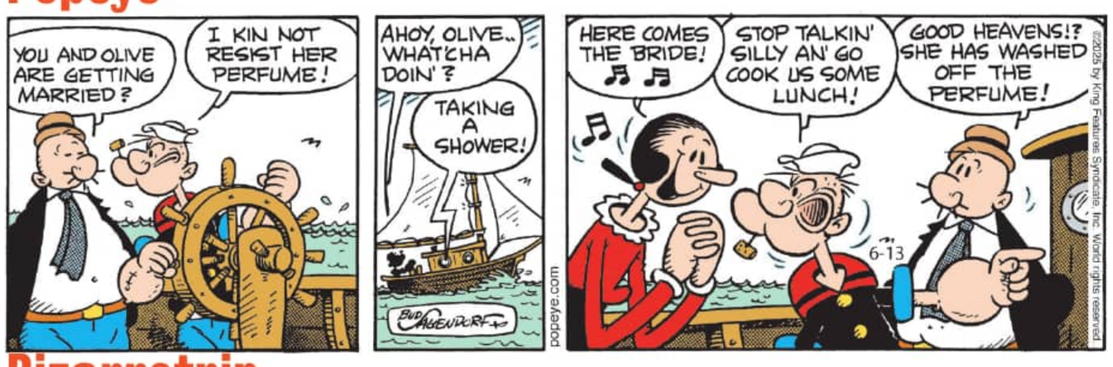


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YOU AND OLIVE ARE GETTING MARRIED?
I KIN NOT RESIST HER PERFUME!
AHOY, OLIVE.. WHAT'CHA DOIN'?
TAKING A SHOWER!
BUD SAGENDORF
popeye.com
HERE COMES THE BRIDE!
STOP TALKIN' SILLY AN' GO COOK US SOME LUNCH!
GOOD HEAVENS!? SHE HAS WASHED OFF THE PERFUME!
6-13
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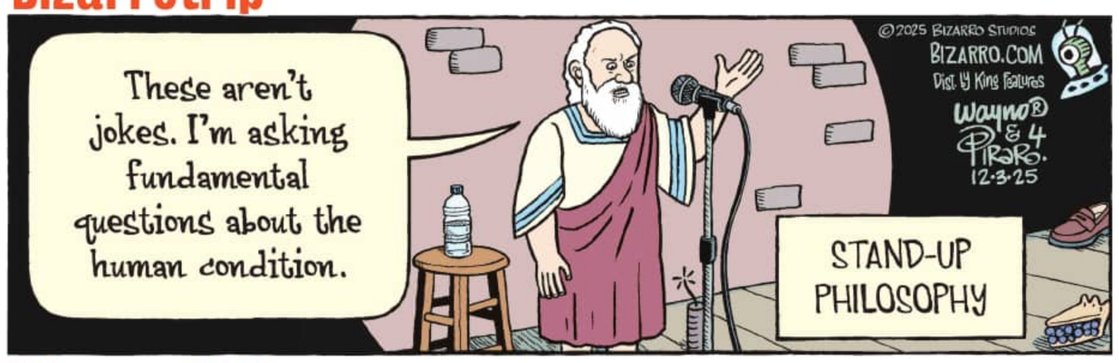
Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

WELCOME TO Y'ALL MART. HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
I NEED A CHRISTMAS TREE SKIRT
WOULD YOU LIKE A PAIR OF NICE MISTLETOE PUMPS TO GO WITH THAT?
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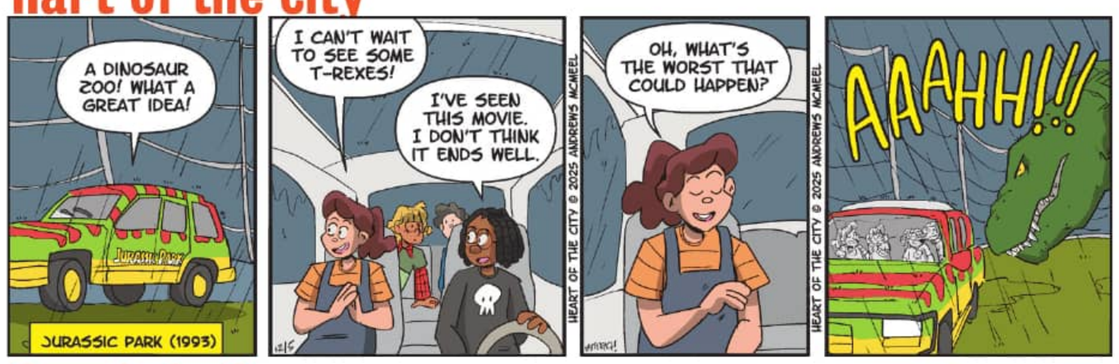
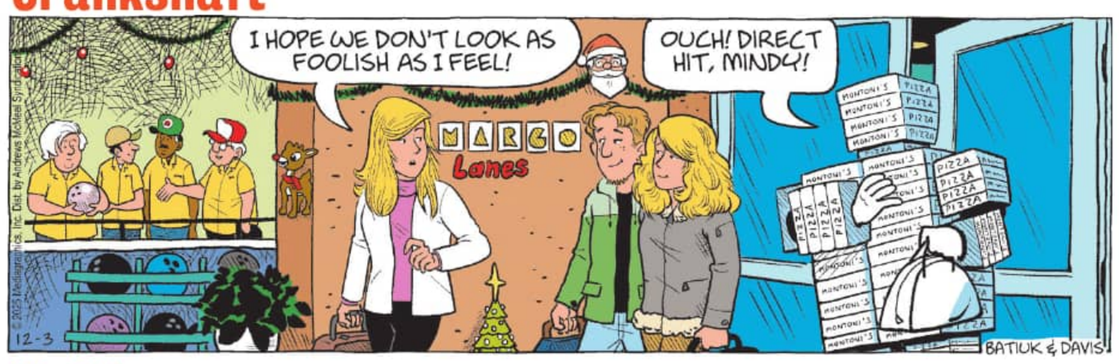
12/3
www.creators.com
Barnhart

Hart of the city


A DINOSAUR ZOO! WHAT A GREAT IDEA!
JURASSIC PARK (1993)
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE SOME T-REXES!
I'VE SEEN THIS MOVIE. I DON'T THINK IT ENDS WELL.
OH, WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
AAAHH!!!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft



Mutts

A BEAR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?!
PEOPLE KEEP DE-STROYING MY FOREST SO I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO LIVE!!!
ROAR
EARL HAS A SHPARE BEDROOM!
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com
12-3

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Balance becomes your superpower. Love flourishes through compromise and understanding. Career momentum builds when you adapt gracefully. Financial matters stabilize through moderation. Travel feels spontaneous yet fulfilling. Home life feels harmonious, encouraging relaxation. By embracing flexibility without losing focus, you create space for growth, joy, and deeper connections in every area.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

True strength shows through humility. Those with real power don't seek attention; they apply it quietly. Trust people who promise modestly, then exceed expectations through consistent action and reliable results.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Some people can be pleasant yet harmful to your growth. Notice who draws out versions of you that dim your light, and keep choosing company that supports your best self.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Help others choose what benefits you by making it easy. When options feel natural and simple, people follow instinctively, allowing outcomes that serve both your interests and theirs seamlessly.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Your compassion centres on ensuring no one feels abandoned. Acknowledge loyalty requires effort; it's meaningful precisely because it costs energy and commitment rather than coming effortlessly to anyone.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Pressure pushes you to rush, but speed steals clarity. Choose a pace that preserves presence and control, even if it means stepping aside, slowing down, or leaving the race entirely.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Even excellent work fails with the wrong audience. Don't force appreciation where understanding lacks; invest energy in people already attuned to your ideas and capable of recognizing their value.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Your emotional awareness feels heavy yet useful. Though it brings excess information, today you'll carry it willingly, knowing you can genuinely help others through sensitivity, insight, and responsible care.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Ensure your bound reflect your values, not assumptions about others. Emotional armour isn't exclusion; it protects your energy, letting you engage intentionally without unnecessary depletion or compromise.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Emotions shift like weather systems, constantly forming and fading. Whatever your internal climate today, remember it's temporary. No mood, storm, or state remains permanent forever.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Social energy is strong, but presence works best in moderation. Prepare a graceful exit line so connections stay meaningful without exhausting yourself or overstaying beyond your comfort zone.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Among all options, you'll choose the most compassionate. You act with love, grant benefit of doubt, and leave space for unknowns, trusting kindness as the wisest direction.

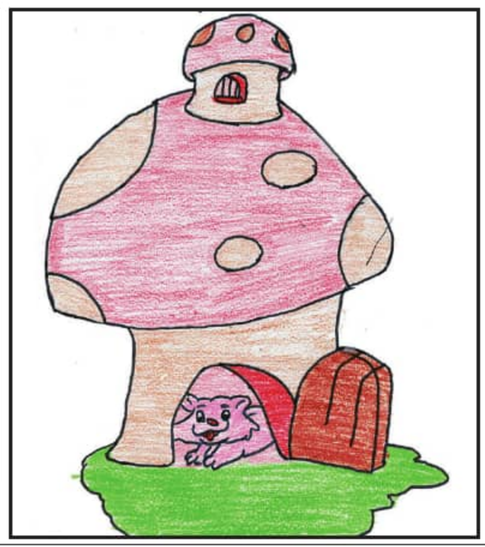
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Courage fuels creative reinvention now. You'll bring something new into existence through will alone, a quiet magic rewarded by timely luck that kick starts momentum and deserved progress.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Krishna, Bengaluru



Khushi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

= 36-2(20+3×3-4)+10
= 36-2(20+9-4)+10
= 36-2×25+10
= 36-50+10
= 46-50 = -4

RIDDLER

None. The boat is floating on the water, so as the tide rises, so does the ladder.

BULL'S EYE

ante, antler, earn, lane, lean, leant, learn, lent, navel, near, neat, rant, raven, renal, rent, rental, tavern, vane, vent, VENTRAL, vernal

FAST FIVE

S	U	C	K	S
C	L	O	N	E
R	A	Y	O	N
A	M	P	L	E
M	A	U	L	S

STRIKE OUT

P	R	O	V	O	K	E	■	A	S	I	A	N	S	■
E	■	C	■	G	■	V	E	X	E	D	■	E	■	■
C	O	C	A	I	N	E	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	■
K	■	L	■	V	■	N	■	A	■	D	■	■	■	■
I	N	U	R	E	■	T	E	D	I	O	U	S	■	■
■	■	S	■	■	E	S	A	U	■	■	S	■	■	■
S	■	D	■	E	S	A	U	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
H	I	E	M	A	L	■	C	E	A	S	E	S	■	■
■	■	V	■	P	A	T	H	■	U	■	A	■	■	■
L	E	A	V	E	N	S	■	E	B	B	E	D	■	■
O	■	■	E	■	■	U	■	X	■	F	■	D	■	■
O	U	T	E	R	■	R	A	P	T	U	R	E	■	■
M	■	I	R	A	Q	I	■	E	■	S	■	N	■	■
S	O	N	S	Y	■	S	E	L	E	C	T	S	■	■

QUICK

S	A	D	D	E	N	■	P	L	A	T	E	S	■	■
N	■	E	■	T	■	■	■	L	■	I	■	R	■	■
A	S	H	R	A	M	■	R	A	B	B	L	E	■	■
C	■	S	■	G	R	O	U	T	■	R	■	N	■	■
M	A	C	A	O	■	D	■	M	O	O	N	■	■	■
S	■	M	■	W	A	N	T	S	■	■	A	■	■	■
D	E	S	I	■	H	■	A	■	I	S	U	P	■	■
N	■	V	I	T	A	L	■	■	D	■	S	■	■	■
A	P	E	X	■	R	■	L	Y	I	N	G	■	■	■
G	■	O	■	T	A	P	E	D	■	E	■	S	■	■
I	N	H	A	L	E	■	B	E	L	I	E	D	■	■
R	■	A	■	I	■	■	■	E	■	R	■	A	■	■
B	A	T	T	L	E	■	U	S	E	F	U	L	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

A. Moving from left to right, one dark segment moves 1 place clockwise while the other moves 2 places anticlockwise.

QUOTE UNCODE

Good health is not something we can buy. However, it can be an extremely valuable savings account.

SUDOKU

2	1	7	5	3	9	6	8	4
6	8	4	1	7	2	9	5	3
3	9	5	8	6	4	2	1	7
9	7	3	2	8	6	1	4	5
8	2	6	4	5	1	3	7	9
4	5	1	7	9	3	8	2	6
1	4	9	6	2	7	5	3	8
7	3	8	9	1	5	4	6	2
5	6	2	3	4	8	7	9	1

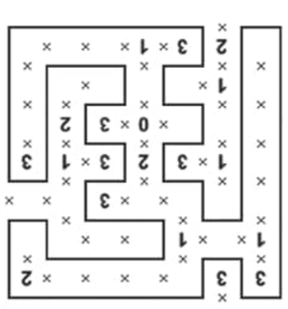
ALPHA TRIANGLE

M, Me, REM, Prem, Perms, Sempre, Empress.

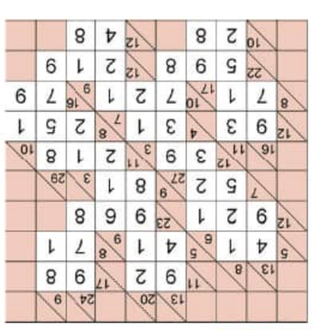
GO FIGURE

Easy
8 + 7 - 9 - 3 = 3
Medium
4 + 3 - 4 x 3 = 9
Hard
9 + 3 / 3 - 1 = 3

LOOP



KAKURO



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